Co-operation with China in power sector

†3050. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to cooperate with China instead of competing with it in the field of power; and

(b) if so, the details of the initiative taken so far/to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The Minister of Power visited China in September, 2001. Following areas have been identified for cooperation with China in Power Sector:

(i) Management of transmission and distribution network to reduce the T&D losses and to improve the quality of power.

(ii) Sharing each others knowledge in Grid Management.

(iii) Sharing their expertise in project management to reduce time over-run.

Power Grid Corporation of India has signed a MoU with State Grid Corporation of China on 9th July 2003 for experience sharing in various areas of transmission of electricity.

Rural Electrification in Border villages

†3051. SHRIMATI KAMLAMANHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scheme prepared by Government for the implementation of rural electrification on priority basis;

(b) whether the rural electrification programme is being implemented at very low pace in far-off zones in a number of States particularly in bordering villages in each district/Tehsil;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to expedite the programme in these bordering villages; and

(d) the minimum norms prescribed for conferring electrification Status to bordering villages?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.